GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3728
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of pilgrims visit Kailash-Mansarovar every year;

(b) if so, whether Gujarati visitors constitute one-third of the yatris;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to require the services of Gujarati knowing priests for the yatris;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a): Approximately 450-500 Yatris visit Kailash Manasarovar every year.

(b): Selection procedure of Yatris is open and transparent. Public advertisements inviting applications for the Yatra are issued. The selection of Yatris is done through a computer generated random selection process.

(c) & (d): No priests are attached to any group. The Government deputes a serving Governmentofficer as a Liaison Officer with each batch of the Yatra.

(e): Does not arise.